

Remarks

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-73 are pending in the application. No claims have been allowed.

Election and Response to Restriction

In the Action, the Office restricts the application to one of Group I (claims 1-17), Group II (claims 18-23), Group III (claims 24-27), Group IV (claims 28-35), Group V (claims 36-43), Group VI (claims 44-48), Group VII (claims 49-57), Group VIII (claims 58-65), Group IX (claims 66 and 67) or Group X (claims 68-73). The Office asserts the restriction is proper because the groups are “distinct” and “unrelated,” because the groups have acquired a separate status in the art, and because the search required for each of groups I-X is not required for the other individual groups. [See Action at pages 5-8.]

Applicants respectfully disagree that the groups are unrelated. Groups I-X are related, for example, in the sense that they can be used together in a video codec (coder/decoder) system that uses video frames with more than one reference frame (e.g., B-frames).

Because the groups are not unrelated, and because the Examiner could easily examine some groups together, Applicants present the following alternative groups for examination, designated Groups A, B, C, D, E, F and G, as shown in Table 1 below:

Applicants' Suggested Groups	Examiner's Corresponding Groups	Claims
Group A	Groups I, II	1-23
Group B	Group III	24-27
Group C	Group IV	28-35
Group D	Group V	36-43
Group E	Group VI	44-48
Group F	Group VII	49-57
Group G	Groups VIII, IX, X	58-73

Table 1

For example, Group I (claims 1-17) and Group II (claims 18-23) should be examined together. Claim 1 recites in part, "In a computer system, a method of processing images in a sequence of video images, the method comprising: determining a fraction for a current image in the sequence." Dependent claims 11 and 12 indicate that the claim 1 method of processing can be performed during video encoding or video decoding. By comparison, claim 18 in Group II recites in part, "In a computer system, a method of encoding images in a sequence of video images, the method comprising: determining a fraction for a current image in the sequence."

Provided that the Examiner accepts Applicants' suggested groups, Applicants elect Applicants' Group A (claims 1-23) without traverse.


However, if the Examiner does not accept Applicants' suggested groups, Applicants provisionally elect the Examiner's Group I (claims 1-17) with traverse.

Respectfully submitted,

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